KARO-ECHO Board Meeting
7/8/20
via Zoom

Present:

Howdy Goudy, KE6BEE
Larry Vanselow, KK6GIO
Hal Graboske, KK6NDF
Rob McNicholas, K6RJM
Annette McCoubrey, KJ6SWK
Natalie DeJarlais, KM6UCF

Comm Hubs
Rob asked for clarification about the difference between Comm Hubs and Neighborhood Nets. Hal explained that the Communication Hubs would be the centerpoint of emergency comms for our areas; KE would be the umbrella over the areas and communicate with the EOC. Ideally, we would work in coordination with the CERT areas, and KE members should create and staff the comm hubs. We need to let residents know that in an emergency, the only way they may be able to contact the EOC is via the hams.

Howdy pointed out that it could be easier to get volunteers to coordinate emergency communications hubs than to volunteer as CERT area coordinators. We'll need two coordinators per area for redundancy.

The group concluded that where there is an active CERT area, the hubs can work with CERT coordinators. Otherwise, we will proceed independently. One of the primary tasks will be to map who can hear whom.

Annette suggested that we form a committee to provide structure, such as assigning channels to the areas and creating a net script for them.

Howdy noted that we need to report on our activities and inspire more people to do the same. We can present the vision, but it will evolve as we do it and see how people respond. We can provide communications/message handling training.

Tech Team
Hal wants volunteers to form a tech team to handle maintenance and building issues.

Elmering
Online elmering forum: Rob created a Google Group for this, and both Rob and Howdy are

willing to be moderators. We can ask for additional volunteers at the next meeting. Questions can go to elmer@karoecho.net; the forum is accessible at https://groups.google.com/a/karoecho.net/forum/#!forum/elmer

July 13 Meeting agenda
Hal proposed the following:

1 - Comm Hubs
   -we agreed to move in this direction and we need to as a group/club decide on some questions.
   - who are providing this emergency response net for?
   - who (what other agency/organization) will work with us?
  - we need to have some kind of updated mission statement/ structure as we move forward

2 - Neighborhood Nets - LAN (FRS/GMRS)
   - these would have to be defined and built by the ham club
   - they would need to be trained and coordinated with the ham net to be useful
   -we need to explore where they already are and where we can start to build them

3- Tech team
   - Don agreed that EBARC is a fine example of a ham club that focuses on radio technology
   - it also gets them to collaborate internally well
   -so we want to see if KE can create such an effort
   - a decent number of our folks are radio experts and already do tech tasks - build from there

4 - Elmering
   - Annette suggest an online Q&A forum hosted by experienced hams
   -Don is willing to hold ZOOM sessions to elmer new hams
   -we also can encourage radio-interested folk (the CERT survey) to get radio-active

Meeting was adjourned.